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## Three professors step down at close of 2006-07 academic year

When Furman bid the Class of 2007 goodbye at the June 2 Commencement, it did the same to three professors who worked at the university for a combined 106 years.

Judith Bainbridge and Duncan McArthur, professors of English, and Ken Sargent, professor of earth and environmental sciences, were granted emeritus status by the board of trustees.

*Furman* magazine asked former students of each professor to comment on their talents in the classroom and beyond. Excerpts from their submissions are included here as tributes to these distinguished and dedicated teachers.

> **JUDY BAINBRIDGE's** tenure at Furman began in 1976, and in addition to her skills in the classroom, many Furman graduates remember her efforts as director of educational services. As such, she guided and encouraged Furman's best and brightest in their quests for national scholarships (Rhodes, Truman, Goldwater), graduate awards and other major honors.

Jessica Taylor '07, a political science major who is pursuing a journalism career in Washington, D.C., is one of a long line of students who found in Bainbridge a trusted mentor and friend. In a talk at this spring's Senior Order ceremony, where Bainbridge was inducted into

the women's honorary group, Taylor said, "Dr. Bainbridge's office used to be just inside the middle door of Furman Hall. But everyone knows her real office was actually outside the building on her bench, where you could find her taking a smoke break and occasionally grading papers. However, she never got much of a chance to grade, because a student would always be there talking, with many others waiting their turn.

"Visiting 'The Bainbridge' became almost a weekly ritual. It is no surprise that in 2004 she was awarded the prestigious Meritorious Advising Award. Take a look inside her actual office and you'll find the walls and shelves covered with photos of former students."

Taylor emphasized how Bainbridge demanded "excellence and perfection from each of her students. . . . When I have given tours to prospective students and talked about faculty and advisors, Dr. Bainbridge is always my prime example of how Furman professors care about not just the academic and professional development of students, but their personal development too.

"In her 31 years at Furman, Dr. Bainbridge counseled hundreds of students not just about writing but also about graduate and professional school decisions. For many of her years here,

she served as director of educational services and coordinated applications for many major scholarships. Winners of and nominees for these awards have become doctors, lawyers, activists and government officials, among other esteemed positions, and they owe much of their success to Dr. Bainbridge."

> **DUNCAN MCARTHUR** (photo right) joined the faculty in 1971 as a specialist in 18th-century English literature. He quickly established a reputation for always being superbly prepared, whether for a class, a committee meeting or other university activity.

English department chair Stanley Crowe suggests that these skills emerged from McArthur's years in the Navy and later as a commander in the Naval Reserves. In a 1980 letter of commendation, McArthur's commanding officer wrote that he "demonstrated exceptional abilities of organization and administration in leading [his] unit."

In the classroom, McArthur was known as a demanding professor with high standards and a willingness to work tirelessly to help motivated students improve their composition skills and understanding of literature.

Steve Shelburne '78, a professor of English at Centenary College in Louisiana, has remained

in close touch with McArthur. He says one of the most delightful aspects of his friend and colleague's personality is his sense of humor — “witty, slightly offbeat, subtle, always generous.”

Shelburne goes on to say that in graduate school, “Duncan wrote a dissertation on ‘the spleen,’ or what we would call ‘melancholy,’ in 18th-century English literature. That work must have inoculated him: Duncan is, in fact, among the most consistently optimistic people I know.”

“This optimism, I believe, is key to his personal and professional commitments. He believes, rightly, that education can help his students improve their lives. He thinks that the job of a university is to teach and that the faculty's primary commitment must be to liberal education, not to sectarian disciplines. He focuses, in other words, on people, not on things. Teaching for Duncan is a form of friendship.”

Shelburne adds, “Hanging on my office wall are original numbers of the 18th-century periodicals *The Tatler* and *The Spectator*. Both were gifts from Duncan. I remember that years ago when he gave me one of the papers he said, ‘It's torn and coffee stained, but when you're almost 300 years old, you will be too.’

“I repeat that story every year when I show these papers to my students. It's a small testament of my profound affection for my teacher and friend Duncan McArthur.”

> **KEN SARGENT's** colleagues in Furman's earth and environmental sciences department equate his tenure at Furman to “geologic time — that unimaginably long period of time before time as we know it.” For not only has Sargent taught at Furman since 1968, he is also a 1962 graduate — with a degree in chemistry.

And although he has retired from teaching, he will remain a campus presence for the next

year in his role as “shepherd” of the construction of the Charles H. Townes Center for Science.

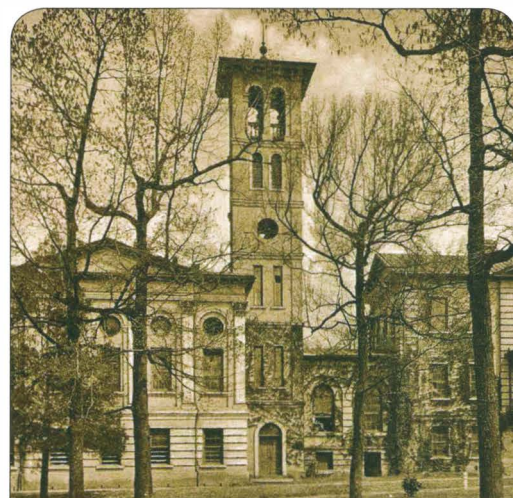
When the \$60 million plan to expand and refurbish the science facilities was launched earlier this decade, Sargent was designated the faculty point man because of his analytical mind and interpersonal skills. He has been widely praised for his ability to synthesize ideas and nurture an atmosphere of collegiality and mutual respect among everyone involved in the planning of the complex, and for his talent at presenting and interpreting the needs and concerns of architects and professors to each other.

“Sarge's” even-handed nature, energetic attitude and irreverent sense of humor also contributed to his effectiveness in working with students. English Percy '83, a manager with Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas, describes how Sargent influenced his career path.

“When I came to Furman in the fall of 1979, I knew I wanted to major in geology but I had no idea what type of geology,” says Percy. “Ken was instrumental in helping me focus on the area of geology which has defined much of my professional life. His enthusiasm for ore deposits was contagious. He was a treasure hunter disguised as a professor.”

As a teacher, Sargent's “combination of enthusiasm and humor [are] both engaging and effective, and his approach has important effects beyond the classroom,” says Percy. “Ken established connections among people and organizations and used those connections to benefit his students by securing access to study locations and research materials as well as new analytical equipment and funding to support a wide range of research.

“His contributions have been key to the success of the EES program at Furman.”



## Spreading the fame of Old Main(s)

**Old Main**, for 100 years Furman's signature building, did not survive after the university's departure from downtown Greenville in the late 1950s. But it lives on in the minds and hearts of those who attended Furman before the move to the current campus — and in a book published by the Society for College and University Planning and the Association of University Architects.

*Old Main: Fame, Fate, and Contributions to Campus Planning and Design* examines “higher education's iconic architecture” — the signature college buildings on campuses throughout the country. Author Richard P. Dober's “architectural biography” strives to “understand and acknowledge the contributions these magnificent masterworks have made to campus development.”

Of Furman's Old Main, Dober says it was “treasured by the alumni.” He refers to its reproduction on the new campus as “a meaningful deposit in Furman's memory bank,” and laments its loss to fire in the early '60s.

The book is illustrated with picture postcards of 94 buildings — including the familiar one shown here.